

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/060,848	KLOEK ET AL.
	Examiner Yong D Pak	Art Unit 1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 1/08/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4.
3. The drawings filed on 6/14/2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on January 8, 2004, amending claim 1 and canceling claims 5-23, has been entered.

Claims 1-4 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed on January 8, 2004, with respect to claims 1-3 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-3 under 112, 1st paragraph has been withdrawn in response to the insertion of the functionality of the polypeptide.

Applicant's arguments, filed on January 8, 2004, with respect to claims 1-4 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-4 under 102(b) has been withdrawn. Applicants argue that the cited reference is not enabling because the M. incognita MDH described in the reference is not purified. Applicant's arguments are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

BRENDA, the Enzyme Database: EC number - 1.1.1.37, teach malate dehydrogenase from many different sources. Malate dehydrogenase of SEQ ID NO:3 of the instant invention is closest in sequence identity to the malate dehydrogenase

from *Caenorhabditis elegans*, around 50%. Figure 3 of the specification teaches the conserved regions between the two enzymes and crystal structures of many malate dehydrogenases are available (see BRENDA, pages 39 and 43). Birktoft et al. (Biochemistry, Vol. 28, pages 6065-6081, 1989) teach a crystal structure of a malate dehydrogenase and domain structures of the enzyme (Figure 1 and pages 6067-6069 and 6072). Therefore, art and specification provide ample teachings for polypeptides having malate dehydrogenase activity having at least 70% identity to the malate dehydrogenase of SEQ ID NO:3 of the instant invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Pak whose telephone number is 571-272-0935. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 571-272-0928. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-1600.

Yong D. Pak
Patent Examiner

Tekchand Saidha
TEKCHAND SAIDHA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
2/5/04